

Tennessee House Bill No. 276 (Norris, 1881 – UT admissions)

[On cover]

HB No 276

An act instructing the Trustees of the Tennessee University to make arrangements for persons of color who may be entitled to admission

Int. Feby 15. 81

P 1st R and referred to

Judiciary

P 2^d R Feb 23 & referred to the Com on Ed&CS

Rec to be referred to the Committee on Education & Common Schools.

Poston. [*William Fletcher Poston, a Republican representing Haywood County, was a lawyer and served as U.S. District-attorney for the Western district of Tennessee and temporary speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives; a member of Governor Robert L. Taylor's staff, he was a delegate to three national conventions.*]

Recommended to be laid upon the table Mch 28/81

LuB Eaton, Chairman [*Lucien Bonaparte Eaton, a Republican representing Fayette and Shelby Counties, was born in New Hampshire in 1837; he served in the Union Army; a wealthy planter, he was a lawyer and the editor of the Memphis Daily Post.*]

I. F. Norris

[Text]

1. Whereas an act accepting on the part of the State of Tennessee a grant of of [sic] lands made, by the united States to the several States and Territories, Which may provid [sic] Colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the machanic arts.

2. and Whereas the State of Tennessee did accept the land grant donated by the united States to the Several States, and Territories approved July 5th, 1862 entitled an act donating public lands to the Several States and Territories for the benefit of agriculture and the machanic arts.

3. and Whereas agriculture and the machanic arts are much needed among all classes of our Citizens of in the great State of Tennessee and whereas the above named grant of land on scrip land scrip having been recieved [sic] and invested in 6 per cent Interest

bearing Bonds of this State, the Interest of which is to defray the expenses of the agriculture and machanic arts of the Tennessee University in the State of Tennessee.

4. Whereas Sec 306.0 of the statutes of Tennessee says that Three Students from each County in the State of Tennessee, Shall at all times be entitled to receive free tuition in said College; said students to be nominated by the Several Representatives to the Legislature from each County in the State, and preference being given; first to the children of deceased federal soldiers; ~~second~~ second to children of those who lost their lives on account of their loyalty; and Third, to those who excel in public schools; it being understood, that in all Cases, prior claims shall be given to those whoes [sic] circumstances especially requir [sic] it.

5. And Whereas Sec 306.v of the Statutes of Tennessee, says no citizen of this State, otherwise Qualified, shall be excluded from the privileges of said university, by reason of his race or color, provided that it ~~shat~~ shall be the duty of the trustees of said university, to make such provisions as may be necessary for the separate accommodation or instruction of any persons of color who may be entitled to admission.

and Whereas Section 12th of art. 11th of the Constitution of Tennessee line 22ent provides that no School established or aided under This section shall allow White and Negro children to be received as Scholars together in the same School.

[Written in same hand, different ink]

Sect. 1 Therefore, be it enacted by the general assembly of the State of Tennessee. That the Trustees of the Tennessee university at the City of Knoxville, are hereby requested to make arrangements for a separate School for persons of color at the earliest practicable moment.

Sect. 2 Be it further enacted that all laws or parts of laws now in use contrary to this act be and the same is hereby repealed and that this act shall take effect from and after its passage the public welfare requiring it.

